

Walk Your Child To School Day

Kansas children will have an opportunity to participate in a very special walk to school when schools and community groups across the state celebrate Kansas Walk Your Child To School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 6. The event, sponsored by Kansas SAFE KIDS, is planned as a way to encourage parents to teach children about pedestrian safety and to make communities aware of the difficulties and dangers children may face on their trip to school each day.



“School age children are particularly vulnerable to pedestrian injury because they have difficulty judging the speed and distance of oncoming cars. Children need to learn how to walk to school safely, and parents need to teach and review important safety guidelines with their children. What better way to do this than to walk your child to

school?” said Jan Stegelman of the Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition. “By walking children to school, you can also determine how safe their route is for walking and where improvements can be made.”

Unfortunately, pedestrian injury is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children in the United States ages 5 to 14. In Kansas, 43 percent of the children age 0-14 hospitalized for pedestrian injury were age 5-9 (1999 and 2000). Because children are not developmentally and cognitively ready to cross the street alone until age 10, parents and schools must take an active role in assuring children’s safety while walking to and from school.

“Even if your community or school is not participating in this special statewide event, you can walk your child to and/or from school sometime during that week,” said Stegelman.

Additional information for parents is available at www.safekids.org and www.walktoschool.org.